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FBI Linked To Political Burglaries

By Rick Carroll

The second former San Jose activist to be jailed on political espionage charges claims that the FBI instigated burglaries he helped perpetrate in Northern California during the late 1960s.

Henry Scherling, a tall, slender 46-year-old father of 13, made that claim in an 84-page statement filed in San Jose Municipal Court.

His claim was made public yesterday even as Scherling appeared before Municipal Court Judge William J. Harris Jr. and entered not guilty pleas to four counts of political burglary.

The judge set February 26 for a preliminary hearing and allowed Scherling to remain free on his own recognizance.

On January 14, Scherling, who resides in Coeur d'Alene, Idahd, told a Justice Department investigator that he committed 16 political burglaries in the company of already self-confessed burglar Jerry Ducote.

And in response to a question posed by special agent John Lilly of the Justice Department, Scherling claimed the burglaries were committed on behalf of the FBI.

Q "Who do you think really was instigating the actual burglaries?

A "Truthfully?

Q "Yes.

A "The FBI. Because I have no other reason why anyone else would have any use for this information."

Scherling further said he "understood it (the stolen documents) was going to the FBI and to three or four large corporations and the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities and everybody who had approved for use of this information.

"Who else would have any use for this junk, I have no idea," Scherling said.

FBI agent in charge Charles Bates has denied that the FBI was in any way involved in the political burglaries.